

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 08585 241101Z

13

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 EB-11 SSO-00 AID-20 XMB-07 MC-02

CIEP-03 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 CAB-09

DOT-00 FAA-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /129 W

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O 241036Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9195

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8585

DEPT PASS COMMERCE FOR SECRETARY DENT

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN SY

SUBJ: SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES REEQUIPMENT

REF: STATE 160043; BEIRUT 8468; ABU DHABI 929, 908

1. USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE HAS INDICATED TO RCAA THAT, ACCORDING OFFICE OF RAAFAT ASSAD (PRESIDENT ASSAD'S BROTHER), UAE AMBASSADOR TO UK, MAHDI TAJER, IS OPENLY PUSHING ACQUISITION A300B4 WITH SARG OFFICIALS.

2. THIS REPORT, IF TRUE, IS DISCONCERTING AS WE UNDERSTAND TAJER AND SYRIAN AMBASSADOR TO UK HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO SUBMIT TO PRES ASSAD THEIR JOINT RECOMMENDATION AS TO MERITS OF A300B4 VS TRISTAR FOR SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES. REPORT SUPPOSEDLY DUE DAMASCUS JUL 27 AND WOULD BE COROLLARY TO SELECTION COMMITTEE'S REPORT WHICH REPRESENTS DIVERGENT VIEWS, GOVT MEMBERS AGAINST AIRLINE MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS: CHAIRMAN GENERAL JAMIL, GENERAL CHIHABI, AND GENERAL EL-KHOULY RECOMMENDING
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LOCKHEED TRISTAR; SYRIAN ARAB CHAIRMAN MOUKAYED, CHIEF

PILOT TINAWI, AND PRESIDENT ANTAR STRESSING A300B4 ON
BASIS MINIMIZING FINANCIAL RISK AND LOSSESS DURING FIRST
TWO YEARS OF OPERATION.

3. DUANE WOOD, PRES LOCKHEED-CALIF, WAS IN
LONDON UP UNTIL YESTERDAY IN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO
SEE TAJER. WE HAVE SINCE LEARNED THAT TAJER IS APPARENTLY
IN CAIRO ON WAY TO ROME.

4. FOR ABU DHABI: ANY EFFORT EMBASSY MIGHT CONSIDER
APPROPRIATE TO MAKE IN ORDER TO COUNTERBLANACE
TAJER'S ALLEGED INITIATIVE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
GODLEY

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